

Shrewsbury School Journal

serving a community of continuous learners

*School
cancellations*

<http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/central/snow/delay.htm>

see page 6 for more information

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Superintendent's Corner

The FY05 budget: enrollment and the ninth school!

BY DR. ANTHONY BENT
SUPERINTENDENT

The lead article in this edition of the Shrewsbury School Journal concerns the school department budget request for FY05. The three components of the budget provide resources to: maintain our standards of excellence; open a new school; and respond to our continuing enrollment growth. The article emphasizes the needs that result from our continued enrollment growth. Shrewsbury's student population has increased by

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approximately 1,800 students in the last ten years. The town manager's current enrollment projections indicate that Shrewsbury will move from its current preK-12 student population of 5,564 to 6,814 students in 2012. Enrollment continues to be a major pressure that requires the district to request financial resources each year just to keep pace with growth!

The unique aspect of the budget this year is the opening of a ninth school facility in Shrewsbury. Last year we opened the new high school, but closed the former one. Most of the effort last year was to transfer the program, students, and staff to a new location: there was no exceptional budgetary need. The final school budget increase for FY04, with enrollment growth, was 6.6%. Next year, we will open an additional facility, the Oak Middle School, and reconfigure all grade levels (i.e., elementary schools

FY05 Budget, see page 2

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School committee update

Alden Harris, III joins school committee

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Student has heart

Danielle Leary brings defibrillators to school system

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Curriculum specialists

Bradley and Chalmers promoted

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HARLOW FAMILY COLLECTION

The Bailey Brother's building sits on the corner of South and Main Street covered by a recent snow storm. Central One Federal Credit Union is the current owner of that spot.

Enrollment drives FY05 budget

PATRICK COLLINS
DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS SERVICES

Budget Process Starts Early

The FY05 budget process commenced on November 19, 2003 with a presentation to the school committee and community. This was nearly three months earlier than normal. The early start to the budget process was based on projections of an abnormally high increase in budget required by the re-opening of the Oak Middle School. The additional time allows for more detailed financial planning and longer periods of discussion among elected boards in the community.

While we developed our budget proposal early, we still have to wait until early March 2004 until we start getting firm estimates on state aid for Shrewsbury. Absent this information, the town manager will make some estimates for expected state aid (and local receipts) in the interim and this revenue projection will obviously have a direct impact on his recommendation for operating budgets for the town.

Enrollment Drives Increase

The growing school enrollment continues to require additional financial resources beyond the norm, especially for facilities and staffing. This community has been very supportive of our education system, as demonstrated by the investment in school building pro-

jects in the past decade. Moreover, it is worth repeating that at 64% reimbursement from the state, it was wise to go forward when we did, as there is now a moratorium on the state-funded school building program.

Shrewsbury's school enrollment has been growing at a rapid pace and we expect the trend to continue into the next decade. (See also "Enrollment Grows" on page 2).

Enrollment Fast Facts

- 1,800 additional students in 10 years
- 180 new students, on average, per year
- 48% enrollment growth in 10 years
- 4.8% average growth per year

Budget Highlights

The FY05 budget plan calls for a 13.84% increase over FY04. In summary, the plan maintains current services, restores some cuts from this year, addresses accumulated enrollment increases, and provides a very small amount of resources for new initiatives.

Just over \$1.7M is required to meet the financial demands of increases for existing services and supplies, transportation, out-of-district tuition, and labor contracts.

The "growth" category includes all of the new staffing

Growth, see page 2

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